

SENATE RESOLUTION 9006

By Briggs

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor the Appalachian Ballet Company on the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this legislative body should specially recognize those historically significant institutions that bring the joys of artistic expression and culture to the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Appalachian Ballet Company (ABC), which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year, is one such worthy institution that has made substantial contributions to the artistic and cultural life of the great State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the resident dance company of the Clayton Center for the Arts, the Appalachian Ballet Company, East Tennessee's premier classical performing company, makes its home at the Van Metre School of Dance in Maryville; and

WHEREAS, ABC's mission is three-fold: to provide dancers with the highest caliber of classical training and performing opportunities, to produce a first-class season of classical and contemporary ballets showcasing local artists and encouraging collaboration among the area's performing arts, and to promote and foster a love and appreciation of the arts through performances and lecture demonstrations within the community; and

WHEREAS, under founding artistic director Cheryl Van Metre, the company developed a strong foundation in classical technique and a repertoire composed of many great classics; in 1989, the company was accepted into Regional Dance America/Southeast and made the prestigious level of Honor Company in only three years; and

WHEREAS, the Appalachian Ballet Company has commissioned original music, performed countless world premiere ballets, and sponsored professional guest artists and

master teachers in an effort to enrich the cultural lives of their audiences while developing the talents of local artists; and

WHEREAS, ABC's repertoire includes *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Don Quixote*, *The Nutcracker*, *Carmina Burana*, *Scheherazade*, *Cinderella*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Peter Pan*, as well as many original works and story ballets; and

WHEREAS, the ballet company has proudly made a commitment to use live music as often as possible, and the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra has performed with the company for forty-eight years; and

WHEREAS, ABC has performed at the Riverside Dance Festival in New York City, New York, the Spoleto Arts Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, and the International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, they have also performed for The Regional Dance America National Festivals in Houston, Texas; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Montreal, Canada; and Phoenix, Arizona; in 2010, ABC was named Resident Dance Company at the Clayton Center for the Arts, which is located in Maryville, and the Appalachian Ballet Company also performs at the Knoxville Civic Auditorium, The Historic Tennessee Theatre, and The Bijou Theatre; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of Amy Morton Vaughn, who is celebrating her twenty-fifth anniversary as the company's artistic director, the Appalachian Ballet Company has maintained its strong tradition of classical repertoire while developing an innovative contemporary repertory to match; and

WHEREAS, after more than thirty years as a talented dancer, teacher, and choreographer, Ms. Morton Vaughn became the artistic director of ABC in 1997; she currently serves as chair for the advisory board for The Clayton Center for the Arts, as well as serving on the board of Regional Dance America; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Artistic Director Amy Morton Vaughn was named the 2009 Teacher of the Year by the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts, and she has also received the Individual Artist Fellowship from the Tennessee Arts Commission; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years, the Appalachian Ballet Company has been warmly embraced by a thankful community that has been entertained and enlightened time and again by this remarkable ensemble; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize and honor the Appalachian Ballet Company on the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary while commending its invaluable contributions to the artistic and cultural life of this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.